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Five Pounds of Christmas

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Five Pounds of Christmas

By DOROTHY LINDECKER

CHRISTMAS gift month for men overseas is September fifteenth to October fifteenth. This is the period when the government can best handle all overseas packages and insure timely delivery.

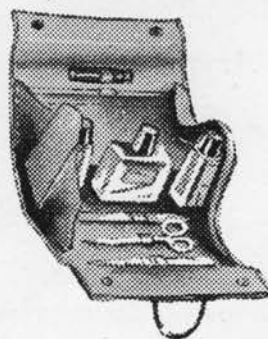
The best idea for Christmas gifts come from those who have been overseas. Here are some hints gleaned from returned veterans on campus. "Give them good old popcorn; the unpopped kind will do," said one boy from Iowa. "Let them worry about a popper." Another ex-serviceman remembers his desire for a "coke". And he received two "cokes" intact and ready to drink. They had been carefully packed in a fiber box of regulation size.

Soap, stationery, razor blades—things which we take for granted—are welcomed as manna from heaven. So are socks for they don't last long in the humid tropics. Airmail envelopes with stamps affixed so that they won't become damp and stick together are welcome conveniences.

Candy, dried fruit, cookies, and other food is always appreciated. Special care in selecting and packing food is necessary, for a carelessly packed box of perishables can break open and ruin other gifts. Hardware stores will cooperate in packing and sealing perishable foods in regular canning tins.

Home canned chicken from the pantry shelf, fruit juices, canned shoe string potatoes will fit in the regulation overseas box and supply ingredients for an overseas feed. Include his favorite foods, such as raisins, a special candy bar or even a box of gingerbread mix. If he has access to a stove or is a friend of the cook, chocolate bars can be used to make wonderful hot chocolate.

Consider the climate to which the gift is going. The men in northern Europe need wool helmets, handknit sweaters, scarves and gloves. In the South Pacific, they need suntan oil and mosquito lotion.



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Anywhere, servicemen can use a good wickless cigarette lighter, shaving cream, razor blades and a razor. Do not, however, include matches and lighter fluid or other inflammable materials.

To help combat boredom include magazines such as *Life*, *Readers Digest* and *Time*. Even more welcome is the home town newspaper to keep him in touch with friends and events at home. An occasional joke book or comic magazine brings a laugh. Paper-bound issues of best sellers are popular presents.

Above all be certain he receives the box by wrapping it securely and within the specified regulations. The War Production Board has approved manufacture of new boxes approximately 10x6x14 inches in size. These strong boxes permit packing within the five pound limit. The contents should be sufficiently cushioned and the box completely packed to prevent rattling. An extra handkerchief or a pair of socks can be tucked into the empty corners for padding.

Whether you send one large item or several small articles, wrap each one in bright Christmas wrappings to create the atmosphere of Christmas morning at home and add surprise and suspense. Inclose a list of the contents and the serviceman's address so that the package may be reassembled and sent on in case it should break open.

Address the package correctly and plainly and mark it "Christmas Gift Parcel." If possible, write with waterproof ink or some material which does not smudge easily so that the package won't be waylaid because of an undistinguishable address.

When the gifts to be sent are added to this assortment the overseas Christmas box can be assembled



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